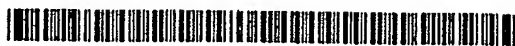


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(57) Abstract: Polynucleotide primers and probes for the amplification and detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* in samples are provided. The primers and probes can be used in real time diagnostic assays for rapid detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* in a variety of situations. Kits comprising the primers and probes are also provided.